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**From:** Sierra Club North Carolina Chapter [reply@emails.sierraclub.org]  
**Sent:** 9/21/2017 6:16:42 PM  
**To:** Tarr, Jeremy M [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=98859532088e4437968231eb6fef6b70-jmtarr1]  
**Subject:** Footnotes Online - September 2017

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Dear Supporter,

The tide is rising - and yes, in a way, we do mean sea level rise. Sierrans know that climate change is a scientifically accepted fact. We've watched with varying degrees of emotion as our nation's chief executive, his inner circle and his supporters shrug off the need to do anything about it. But other leaders are acting. Read below how North Carolina's Roy Cooper has joined a growing alliance of governors who are committed to keeping up the United States' commitment to the Paris Agreement on climate change. And the public outcry is growing, too. In the days before Cooper's announcement, North Carolina newspapers called for climate action in no uncertain terms. "[We can no longer afford to live in denial on climate change](#)," the Asheville Citizen-Times opined, while the News & Observer of Raleigh bemoaned a "[state of denial on sea rise on the NC coast](#)" and the Greensboro News & Record warned that "[covering our eyes won't save any lives](#)." The Charlotte Observer urged us to "[stop sniping about climate change](#)" as the Wilmington Star-News noted that "[sea-level rise is too risky for us to ignore](#)." Sierrans: You're making a difference. Let's resolve now to keep pushing for action on climate change, for safeguarding our water and air, for environmental justice, and for protecting national parks and other natural landscapes. Our numbers are growing. Our voices are being heard. Let's keep fighting together! Thanks for all you do, Your Staff at the NC Sierra Club

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### **Cooper vetoes bill with OBX bag ban repeal, waste control giveaway**

An all-but-the-kitchen sink anti-environmental bill passed hurriedly by the Legislature has been rejected by Governor Cooper. [\*\*Be sure to tell Governor Cooper thanks for standing up for our communities and our environment!\*\*](#)

House Bill 56, "Amend Environmental Laws," would have eliminated the Outer Banks plastic bag ban that protects endangered sea turtles and prevents litter. The OBX ban on single-use plastic bags was enacted, in part, to protect endangered sea turtles, which can mistake the bags for food,

choke on them and die. The ban also prevents litter in sensitive coastal areas. Outer Banks governments passed resolutions opposing the repeal but, instead of listening to local citizens, the Legislature caved in to the Retail Merchants Association, a lobbying group that pushed lawmakers to repeal the ban.

### **Tell Cooper thanks for refusing to take the bait so the Outer Banks won't be left holding the bag!**

H 56 also includes a giveaway to the waste industry at the expense of local governments and unnecessary exemptions to riparian buffer protections. The measure also includes a provision that takes authority from local governments for determining where solid waste is disposed of, and gives it to private waste companies which are not bound by law to provide environmentally safe waste disposal for citizens. The shift in control could be a bonanza for these companies, which compete for revenue from in-state and out-of-state waste streams.

The bill was promoted as legislative leaders' answer to contamination of the Cape Fear River with GenX because it included a token amount of funding for a local utility and UNC-Wilmington to study the issue - instead of the \$2.5 million Cooper requested for state environmental and health agencies to address drinking water contamination there and elsewhere in the state.

"We hope that when legislators return in October they will take up the governor's funding request and pass a clean appropriations bill so that North Carolina can prevent another crisis like GenX in the future," Sierra Club State Director Molly Diggins said.



### **Cooper pledges NC to fight climate change**

Governor Cooper has taken another stance against the environmentally unfriendly policies of the Trump administration.

Cooper, who said in July that he'll oppose oil and gas drilling off the North Carolina coast, announced yesterday that North Carolina will join the U.S. Climate Alliance. The bipartisan organization is made up of states that have committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The Climate Alliance was created in response to President Trump's statement - recently walked back by members of his cabinet - that he'll withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Agreement. North Carolina joins 14 other states and Puerto Rico as members of the coalition.

"Governor Cooper has once more shown leadership in his willingness to protect the environment for North Carolinians today and for generations to come," Sierra Club State Director Molly Diggins said. "Recent record-setting hurricanes and other catastrophic weather-related events across the



country have shown that the U.S. must join other nations in taking action to mitigate climate change. If our president refuses to maintain our national commitment to the Paris Agreement, governors like Roy Cooper must - and will - take the lead."

According to the group's principles, its member states "recognize that climate change presents a serious threat to the environment and our residents, communities, and economy" and that state-level action will benefit economies and strengthen communities.

"Alliance members are growing our clean energy economies and creating new jobs, while reducing air pollution, improving public health, and building more resilient communities," the principles read.

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## **NC DEQ questions stall Atlantic Coast Pipeline plans**

State regulators have hit the "pause" button on a fracked gas pipeline that would run from West Virginia through Virginia and into North Carolina.

Last week, the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) asked Duke Energy and Dominion Energy to provide more information about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), so the agency could better gauge the possible impact on waterways the pipeline would cross.

The federal Clean Water Act says states must certify that proposed pipelines will not violate state water quality standards before construction can begin. DEQ's request means its decision on granting permission, originally due on Sept. 18, will be on hold until it gets the information.

The 600-mile-long proposed ACP would cross more than 1,000 streams, rivers, and waterways as it pumps fracked gas from West Virginia to North Carolina. In North Carolina alone, the pipeline would cross more than 300 waterways.

"We applaud Governor Cooper and DEQ for listening to North Carolinians and requiring Duke Energy and Dominion to provide more information so the state can thoroughly examine the water impacts that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would have on our communities," said Kelly Martin, director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign. "The fracked gas ACP would be a dirty, dangerous, expensive relic of a bygone era, and there's no reason North Carolinians should foot the bill for an unnecessary project when clean, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are affordable and abundant here in North Carolina."

Many thanks to all of you who have taken action to educate the public and decision-makers about this project!



### **More NC local governments commit to 100% clean, renewable energy**

Leaders of Hillsborough say they're committed to powering their town with 100 percent clean and renewable energy.

The Hillsborough Board of Commissioners voted last week to establish a goal of powering all of Hillsborough with clean and renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar by 2050. The vote came a week after the Orange County Board of Commissioners approved a similar goal, making their county the first in the state to do so.

"Transitioning to clean, renewable energy holds the promise of a safer and brighter future for North Carolina," Hillsborough Commissioner Jenn Weaver said. "Throughout our state, we've seen the benefits that clean energy brings to our communities like more jobs and cleaner air and water. At the same time, we know that dirty fuels like fracked gas put North Carolina at risk."

Six North Carolina mayors, most recently Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane, have endorsed powering their communities entirely with renewable energy as part of the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy initiative. Other North Carolina communities, including Boone and Asheville, have passed resolutions calling for a national transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2050.

Congratulations and thanks to the many Sierrans who have asked their local governments to take these actions.

"Now more than ever before, it's up to towns like Hillsborough and places like Orange County to drive the transition away from fossil fuels towards more clean, renewable energy," Sierra Club organizer Caroline Hansley said. "By approving this historic measure, our community is sending a powerful signal that we can and we will protect our health, our economy, and our future. We applaud the leadership in the town and county for setting this bold and visionary goal for our community."

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### **Learn how NC's forests are being burned to power Europe**

Are you curious - or concerned - about how wood and other biomass from North Carolina's forests are being used to power cities in Europe? Then you'll want to attend the Wood Pellet Forum in Wilmington next week.

The Sept. 29 public forum, co-sponsored by the Sierra Club's Cape Fear Group, will feature experts who will discuss the impact of the wood pellet industry on Southeastern forests, including those in North Carolina, and the overall environment.

Forum organizers note that cutting trees down to use as fuel in energy production - known as biomass energy or bioenergy - is one of the most counterproductive things we can do if our goal is clean air and a livable planet.

Nevertheless, nations have invested heavily in bioenergy, particularly in the European Union, where bioenergy policies enable billions in subsidies each year to flow to the balance sheets of large utility companies, padding their profits and financing the conversion of old coal-fired power plants to burn wood.

**[Registration is required and will close soon! Visit the forum's website for details on the forum and how to register.](#)**

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### **Upcoming Outings and Events**

Note: All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. To register, contact the group leader(s) or **[visit the Outings and Events calendar on our website.](#)**

**Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 PM**



## **Monthly Meeting and Picnic at Latta Park Pavilion - Central Piedmont Group**

Bring a side dish or dessert to share and enjoy an evening of food and friends. Central Piedmont will provide and grill burgers and veggie burgers. We'll have the buns, condiments and cold soft drinks, too. Please bring your own dining equipment - plates, utensils, cups, napkins - as we'll do our part to Wipe out Waste! Please note the 5:30 start time, we have to be out of the park at sunset.

Contact/leader: George Pfeffer 704-652-0925 [gpfeffer@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gpfeffer@carolina.rr.com)

## **Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7 PM**

### **The NC Legislature and the environment: what's going on, what you can do - Orange-Chatham Group**

Hear how the General Assembly has dealt with environmental issues this year and what we can do to make improvements going forward!

Contact/leader: Melissa McCullough [melissamccnc@gmail.com](mailto:melissamccnc@gmail.com)

## **Thursday, Sept. 21, 6 PM**

### **Croatan Executive Committee Meeting - Croatan Group**

Come and find out what YOUR Sierra Club is doing to explore, protect, and enjoy the coast! Bring a friend!

Contact/leader: Michael Murdoch 252-726-5808 [memurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:memurdoch@gmail.com)

## **Thursday, Sept. 21, 6:30 PM**

### **Monthly meeting - Capital Group**

We'll discuss the Community Solar Campaign.

Contact/leader: John G Sullivan 919-345-2863 [sullij@att.net](mailto:sullij@att.net)

## **Friday-Sunday, Sept. 22-24: Pisgah Wilderness Weekend**

### **Brian Bottom Group Campground, Burnsville**

North Carolina Chapter outings leaders will host a camping/hiking weekend to explore potential wilderness and other areas on the Grandfather and Appalachian districts of the

Pisgah National Forest. Like last year's Great Grandfather Wilderness Weekend Camporee, this group outing will provide multiple opportunities to become familiar with some outstanding wild areas within the western part of the Grandfather District, and the eastern part of the Appalachian District. We will camp in two group campsites of the Briar Bottom Group Campground.

**Registration and payment are required.**

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 9 AM**

**Macky Mt. Hike - Part of the Pisgah Wilderness Weekend**

This is a rugged hike in a little traveled area of the Pisgah National Forest. Inventoried by the US Forest Service as a potential wilderness is truly the trail less traveled. Hiking experience required. We will hike approximately 4-5 miles in and out. Wear sturdy hiking shoes/boots, long pants. Bring plenty of water and lunch/snacks.

Contact/leader: David Reid 828-713-1607 [daviddbreid@charter.net](mailto:daviddbreid@charter.net)

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 9 AM**

**Old Mitchell Trail, Mt Mitchell - Part of the Pisgah Wilderness Weekend**

The hike loops through the summits high-elevation spruce-fir forest, exploring the forests rocky, gorgeous terrain and offers exceptional natural beauty. We will hike a five-mile loop consisting of the Old Mitchell Trail and the Commissary Trail. These hikes are considered moderate to strenuous. Please wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes. Pack snacks or a light lunch and water. Mount Mitchell can be shrouded in misty clouds and have temperatures 20 degrees cooler than lower elevations. Please bring a light jacket or long-sleeved shirt.

Contact/leader: Rosemarie Adams [rbrosenbloom@gmail.com](mailto:rbrosenbloom@gmail.com)

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 9 AM**

**Black Mountain Crest Trail From Mt. Mitchell to Deep Gap - Part of the Pisgah Wilderness Weekend**

Our hike will start by heading away from Mount Mitchell on the Black Mountain Crest Trail and we will cross four peaks at over 6,000 feet elevation. We'll be hiking through beautiful forests with several long range views. I imagine we'll be hiking for six to seven hours, including a lunch break near Deep Gap. Experienced hikers only.

Contact/leader: Linda Alley 704-962-5268 [lindasuealley@hotmail.com](mailto:lindasuealley@hotmail.com)

**Saturday, Sept. 23, 9 AM**

**Hike Mount Mitchell Trail - Part of the Pisgah Wilderness Weekend**

We'll head up only on the Mount Mitchell Trail.

Contact/leader: Robert Scull scull1453@gmail.com

**Sunday, Sept. 24, 9:30 AM**

**Green Knob Hike - Part of the Pisgah Wilderness Weekend**

This hike is designed as a car shuttle to facilitate an approximate four-mile descending hike from the Blue Ridge Parkway, down to the Black Mountain Campground. Volunteers needed to drive up to trailhead, and then to drive back up to retrieve car(s). Includes great views of the Blacks. Learn about the potential wilderness areas and the current Pisgah National Forest planning process which could result in the wilderness recommendation. Hiking poles encouraged to mitigate effects of downhill hiking on knee joints.

Contact/leader: David Reid 828-713-1607 daviddbreid@charter.net

**Thursday, Sept. 28, 10 AM**

**NC Arboretum Hike - Wenoca Group**

Join us for a short hike at the NC Arboretum. We will meet at the Ingles Parking, 863 Brevard Rd, Asheville, located near the Outlet Malls, in order to carpool. The hike is approximately 3.3 miles and 400' elevation gain, most of which is at the beginning. Our pace will average about 2 mph, and we will take time to rest, and to stop and look at wildflowers. I also need a participant willing to share their Arboretum membership pass for one car, if possible. Due to the admission requirement for parking, this hike is limited to two cars and eight people.

Contact/leader: David Reid 828-713-1607 743beetree@charter.net

**Friday, Sept. 29, 9 AM**

**Wood Pellet Forum, Wilmington - Cape Fear Group**

The Wood Pellet Forum is a public event focusing on the effects of the wood pellet industry on the forests and environment of North Carolina. The forum will address the science and legal issues behind the industry. [To register and for more information, visit www.woodpelletsnc.com](http://www.woodpelletsnc.com).

Contact/leader: Priss Endo (614) 296-4410 pauline.endo@gmail.com



**Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 AM**

**Service Outing at Evergreen Nature Preserve - Central Piedmont Group**

Parking at the new public access lot: 1336 Norland Road. Invasive plant removal followed by a short hike. Equipment will be provided but you may want to bring your own work gloves. Bring water, snacks and a picnic lunch if you choose.

Contact/leader: Mary Lou Buck 704-525-2293 maryloubuc@aol.com

**Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 AM**

**Devil's-Courthouse-to-Black-Balsam-Rd Hike - Wenoca Group**

Distance is approximately six miles round trip, rated as mostly moderate with some easy. This hike offers an unusually beautiful section of firs and spruce, as well as some spectacular views. When we reach our high point, Devil's Courthouse, we'll view mountains in three other states if we have a clear day. Also, there will be an opportunity for tree identification and to learn about the well being of the evergreens there. Should offer some great views of fall foliage. There is somewhere around 500ft elevation change, and the trail is rather rugged, with intermittent tree roots and an occasional step/rock. Experienced hikers only.

Contact/leader: Lisa Mcwherter (828) 713-4994 lisamcw2@gmail.com

**Friday, Oct. 20, 10 AM**

**Rainbow Road in Montreat - Wenoca Group**

A mostly easy four-mile in and out hike on a wide trail with gradual elevation gain. Leaf color should be close to peak and we will talk about what factors affect it.

Contact/leader: Jane Laping (828) 772-0379 janelaping@sbcglobal.net

**[For further details and to register for events, please visit our Outings calendar.](#)**

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**Please consider making a donation today to help us protect North Carolina's air, water, and natural places.**

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This email was sent to: [jeremy.tarr@nc.gov](mailto:jeremy.tarr@nc.gov)

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